

Applicant: Thomas SCHMITZ
Appl. No.: 10/695,772

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace original drawing sheets 1-4 with the enclosed replacement drawing sheets 1-7, containing original Figs. 1-8. The enclosed replacement drawing sheets contain larger, clearer versions of the original figures. No substantive amendments have been made to the figures themselves. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 11, and 15 have been amended. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

In paragraph 1, the Office Action objected to the drawings for allegedly not having clear lines and markings. The original drawing sheets 1-4 have been replaced with replacement drawing sheets 1-7, which contain larger versions of the original Figs. 1-8 having clearer lines and markings. No substantive amendments have been made to the figures themselves. The Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

In paragraph 2, the Office Action objected to the specification because the text is allegedly not clean for scanning and printing. Submitted herewith is a substitute specification having clearer text. No amendments have been made to the text itself. The Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejected claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 6-11, 14, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,398,391 to Schlichter et al. Claim 1 is the independent claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the reference surface is located “on at least one of the slide guides and the flat bar slide elements.” For example, as shown in Fig. 5 and discussed in paragraph 25 of the application, sensor 24 can detect a distance “c” between the free ends of the flat bar clothing 19” and the slide surfaces 14* of the flat bars 14₁ through 14₄. Additionally or alternatively, as shown in Fig. 7 and discussed in paragraph 27, a sensor 24₁ can detect a distance “b” between the free ends of the main carding cylinder clothing 4a and the slide surfaces 20₁ of the slide guide 20. Schlichter does not disclose or suggest an arrangement utilizing the claimed reference surfaces. Rather, the apparatus of Schlichter is limited to measuring the distance directly between the sensor 17 and the card clothing 20. (*See, e.g.*, Schlichter at Fig. 2.) Therefore, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Schlichter. Claims 2-20 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for

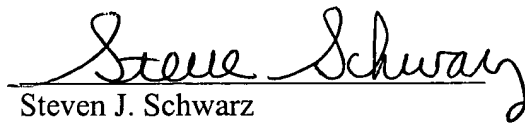
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any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

- Replacement Drawing Sheets 1-7
- Substitute Specification

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